Rehabilitation of Mentally ill Persons

659. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever made any efforts to find out the number of mentally ill persons in the country since they are enjoying the citizenship;

(b) if so, the number of such persons, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate them and is also, considering proper legislation for helping them; and

(d) if not, the reasons for such indifference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Epidemiological studies conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2002-05 indicate that 1 to 2% of the total population suffer from severe mental disorders, and 5 to 7% suffer from minor metal disorders. State-wise date is not available.

(c) The Mental Health Act, 1987, has provisions regarding treatment of persons with mental illness. Likewise, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, has provisions regarding rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including those suffering from mental illness.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare supplements State Governments' efforts through District Mental Health Programme, Strengthening of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and Modernization/Upgradation of Mental Hospitals to make them as therapeutic units.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides assistance to NGOs for providing rehabilitation services to persons with-disabilities, including persons with mental illness, by way of setting up Vocational Training Centres, Home-based Rehabilitation, and Community-based Rehabilitation etc. In addition, assistance is also given to run Half Way Homes for mentally ill persons.

(d) Does not arise.

Reports on working of safeguards for SCs and STs

660. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the constitutional provisions under Article 338(5) (d) regarding reports upon the working of safeguards for SCs and STs;

(b) when was the last report submitted by the National Commission for SC and ST;

(c) whether there was any discussion on such report during 2004 to 2008; and

(d) if not, the action proposed by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (NCSCST) submitted its last report (7th Annual Report) on 19.02.2004. After bifurcation of NCSCST into two Commissions namely the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), NCSC submitted its first Annual Report for the year 2004-05 on 17.7.2006, while the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) submitted its last report (2nd report) for the year 2006-07 on 3.9.2008.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has intimated that there was no discussion on the 1st Report of NCST. In the case of NCSC, the 1st Report of the Commission is yet to be laid in Parliament.

Action taken reports by the Ministries/Departments concerned on NCSC 1st Annual Report have been obtained and are under compilation. For NCST's 2nd Annual Report for the 2006-07, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is pursuing the matter with the Ministries/Departments concerned for providing action taken reports.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students

661. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of students who have got Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students since 2005-06 in the State of West Bengal, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of qualifications required to get the above fellowship;

(c) whether it is a fact that it is mandatory to get 70 per cent marks in the feeder degree course, *i.e.* PG course to become eligible for the above fellowship to pursue M. Phil, or Ph. D; and

(d) if so, the reasons for higher cut-off marks at PG level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The distribution of fellowships under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC students is made State-wise, and not district-wise, according to the SC population of the State. The year-wise details of the candidates, who have been selected for fellowships in West Bengal, are given below:-

Year	No. of candidates selected
2005-06	79
and 2006-07	
2007-08	63
2008-09	122

(b) Any SC candidate, who has passed the Post Graduate examination, is eligible to get the fellowship.

(c) and (d) It is not mandatory to get 70 percent marks in the feeder degree course to get fellowship under this scheme. However, in case the number of candidates exceed the number of available awards, the selection is based on the percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in their Post Graduate examination.